UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.5/51/L.37
17 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 114

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Syed Rafiqul Alom (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 45/253 of 21 December 1990, 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and 48/218 (section I.B) of 23 December 1993 and its decision 50/452 of 22 December 1995,

Having examined the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,[1]

Having considered the views of the Main Committees of the General Assembly on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Having also considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-sixth session,[2]

Having further considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995[3] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal

[1] A/51/6 (Perspective) and A/51/6 (Progs. 1-25).

[2] A/51/16 (Parts I and II).

[3] A/51/128 and Add.1.

Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[4]

I

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998-2001

1. Adopts the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, together with the relevant recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the additional conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the present resolution, taking into account the views of the Main Committees of the General Assembly;

2. Reaffirms that the medium-term plan, as adopted, is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and shall serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets;

3. Stresses the importance of ensuring that the medium-term plan reflects all mandated programmes and activities and decides to include reference in the approved version of the plan to the legislative mandates relevant for the work to be carried out;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to propose revisions to the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation, taking into account the views expressed by Member States thereon, and to submit such revisions to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session;

5. Reaffirms the role of Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

6. Emphasizes the importance of the consultative process with Member States;

7. Also emphasizes the importance of the contribution of the sectoral, regional and central intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing and improving the quality of the plan and its revisions;

8. Regrets that some programmes of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 were not reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures, including ad hoc measures, and to submit proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session so as to enable the Main Committees of the General Assembly as well as the sectoral, functional and regional bodies effectively to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions with a

---

[4] A/51/88.

view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee;

II

STRUCTURE

1. Takes note with concern of the fact that the Secretary-General in presenting the programme structure of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 did not take fully into account the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the views and opinions expressed by Member States, as requested in decision 50/452;

2. Decides to approve the programme structure of the medium-term plan, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. Also decides to maintain disarmament as an independent programme in the medium-term plan;

4. Further decides to review in depth the structure of the medium-term plan, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its fifty-fifth session;

III

PRIORITIES

1. Stresses the importance of priority-setting as an integral part of the planning, programming and budgeting process;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session recommendations on priority-setting within the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to implement the plan in accordance with the overall agreed priorities as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

IV

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995;[3]

2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[2] on the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995;

V

OTHER CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION

1. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-sixth session that have not otherwise been approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

2. Notes with concern the low rate of implementation of the self-evaluation of the programmes, as reflected in paragraph 269 of the report of the Board of Auditors.

ANNEX

Conclusions and recommendations on programmes and subprogrammes of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Introduction and priorities

1. The medium-term plan is a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies are derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. In this respect, the medium-term plan constitutes the principal policy directive of the United Nations.

2. In response to the need to address efficiently and effectively persistent problems, as well as to respond to emerging trends and challenges of the future, the Organization will, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, give priority to the following areas of work during the implementation of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

[(b) Promotion of sustainable development of developing countries, including countries with economies in transition;

Alternatives:

(i) Group of 77 and China: Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

(ii) United States of America: Promotion of economic growth and sustainable development;

(iii) European Union: Promotion of sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development;

Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/51/5), vol. I, chap. II.

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention, as well as combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Programme 1. Political affairs

1. Paragraph 1.1:

(a) Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (a) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

(b) Add the following at the end of the paragraph:

"The programme also includes the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions."

2. Paragraph 1.3:

(a) Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (b) of the CPC report;

(b) In the third line, replace the word "recent" by the word "relevant" and insert the word "including" before "resolution 47/120 A".

3. Subparagraph 1.4 (b):

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (c) of the CPC report.

4. Subparagraph 1.4 (d):

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (d) of the CPC report.

5. Subparagraph 1.4 (h):

(a) Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (e) of the CPC report;

(b) Add the following at the end of the subparagraph:

"as well as assistance to and cooperation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate".

6. Paragraph 1.5:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (f) of the CPC report.

7. Paragraph 1.6:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (g) of the CPC report.

8. Paragraph 1.7:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (h) of the CPC report.

9. Paragraph 1.8:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (i) of the CPC report.

10. Paragraph 1.9:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (j) of the CPC report.

11. Paragraph 1.10:

Replace the first sentence with the following:

"In implementing the subprogramme, the Department will strive in particular to reinforce the Organization's capacity for early warning and good offices, and for non-military measures to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts, as well as for resolving those which have erupted, while fully respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States and for non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, as well as the principle of consent which is an essential element for the success of such efforts."

12. Paragraph 1.11:

Approves the proposals contained in subparagraph 46 (l) of the CPC report.

13. Paragraph 1.12:

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"Contact with relevant regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other private and academic research institutes, without compromising the impartiality of the United Nations, will also be

maintained as part of this subprogramme to assist the Secretary-General in his political contacts with Member States."

14. Paragraph 1.13:

Replace the texts of paragraphs 1.13-1.18 by the following:

"1.13. The mandate for the programme on disarmament stems from the Charter of the United Nations and from the aims and purposes proclaimed by the General Assembly. The implementation of this programme should be guided by the priorities established in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions. The Centre for Disarmament Affairs is responsible for implementing this programme.

"1.14. The first objective of this programme is to provide organizational and substantive secretariat support to multilateral bodies entrusted with deliberation and/or negotiations on disarmament issues, including the meeting of States Parties and other international meetings related to multilateral disarmament agreements.

"1.15. The second objective is to follow and assess current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security in order to assist Member States, and to enable the Secretary-General also to assist them, in their search for agreement. Apart from substantive issues involved in the deliberative and/or negotiating process, this activity should address the challenges arising from tne implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as relevant treaties.

"1.16. The third objective will be to support and promote regional disarmament efforts and initiatives using approaches freely among the States of the region and taking into account the legitimate requirements of States for self-defence and specific characteristics of each region. Regional solutions will be more vigorously pursued as regional conflicts increasingly pose a threat to peace and security. Regional dialogue on crucial disarmament and security issues will be advanced through, inter alia, the organization of conferences.

"1.17. The fourth objective consists of providing impartial, factual information on the disarmament efforts of the United Nations to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions, and specialized non-governmental organizations through the disarmament information programme and by providing full access of Member States to all relevant databases, including on disarmament. This would include as appropriate, organizing open-ended conferences, seminars and workshops for informal exchanges of views on arms control, disarmament and international security issues. The disarmament fellowship programme will continue to be pursued with the primary objective of promoting further the disarmament expertise of Member States, particularly in the developing countries. Member States will be assisted in addressing specific disarmament concerns through the provision of training and advisory services.

"1.18. The fifth objective would be to continue to inform the public on an objective and updated basis of the United Nations disarmament activities. In this context, the three regional centres for peace and disarmament established in Nepal, Peru and Togo, should be utilized. These centres should address the important security problems in their respective regions and subregions in a balanced manner.

"1.19. This programme is expected to enable Member States to conduct deliberations and negotiations on disarmament issues in a smooth and efficient manner, facilitate the task of the Secretary-General in the conduct of his relations with Member States on disarmament matters; contribute to an integrated approach to issues relating to the maintenance of peace and security; and facilitate exchange of ideas between governmental and non-governmental sectors with a view to promoting a better understanding of United Nations endeavours in the field of disarmament."

15. Paragraph 1.19:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (v) of the CPC report, with the following modification:

Insert the word "relevant" before the words "decisions of the Security Council".

16. Paragraph 1.21:

Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (w) of the CPC report.

17. Paragraph 1.30:

Replace the text of paragraph 1.30 with the following:

"The objectives of the subprogramme are:

"(a) Promoting the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(b) Strengthening the dissemination of information on decolonization in order to mobilize world opinion and ensuring the provision by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations of assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"2. The Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all Territories that have not yet exercised their rights in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It will formulate specific proposals to this effect, examine the full compliance with the Declaration and other resolutions, formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of

colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly, and enlist worldwide support for decolonization. The Special Committee [illegible] to dispatch visiting missions periodically to colonial [illegible], in consultation with the administering Powers, so as to enable the Special Committee to obtain first-hand information on conditions in the Territories; examine the views, expressed orally or [illegible] of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also the views of [illegible] representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals with knowledge of conditions in those Territories; and assist the General Assembly in making arrangements, in cooperation with the administering Powers, to secure a United Nations presence in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to observe or supervise the final stages of the process of decolonization.

"5. The Department of Political Affairs will continue to assist the Special Committee in the implementation of its mandate, as well as the General Assembly, in connection with issues under this subprogramme, as appropriate. To that end, the Department will:

"(a) Provide substantive servicing to the Special Committee and its visiting and other missions, as well as to the General Assembly when they review issues relating to decolonization;

"(b) Undertake research, analytical studies and reports on conditions in the Territories;

"(c) Provide assistance to the Special Committee in the preparation of its reports to the General Assembly;

"(d) Collect, review and disseminate basic material, studies and articles relating to decolonization;

"(e) Promote in cooperation with the Department of Public Information a publicity campaign on decolonization. Subject to the relevant decisions by the Special Committee, this will entail organizing panel discussions and seminars, producing and disseminating publications, organizing panel discussions and seminars, organizing exhibits, coordinating international activities aimed at the elimination of colonialism, including liaison with international organizations and individuals concerned with the problems of decolonization;

"(f) Promote flows of assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories."

18. Paragraph 1.31:

Replace paragraph 1.31 with the following:

"The General Assembly Affairs Division will provide the required substantive services and prepare reports of the Trusteeship Council if it should meet, in accordance with its rules of procedure."

...

19. Paragraph 1.33:

In the last line insert the word "inalienable" before the word "rights".

20. Paragraph 1.34:

(a) Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (z) of the CPC report;

(b) Replace the second sentence with the following:

"The Division for Palestinian Rights, which works in consultation with and under the guidance of the Committee, is responsible for providing secretariat services in support of this subprogramme."

21. Paragraph 1.35:

(a) Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 46 (aa) of the CPC report;

(b) Replace the second sentence with the following:

"The Middle East peace process gave rise to renewed hopes for final settlement and opened new possibilities for supportive action by the United Nations."

22. Paragraph 1.36:

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"A third objective will be to heighten awareness of all aspects of the question of Palestine by providing forums to facilitate consideration of relevant issues and promote dialogue among parties concerned, Governments, United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and prominent personalities."

23. Paragraph 1.37:

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"A fourth objective will be to continue to provide information on the question of Palestine and continue the development of the United Nations computer-based information system on the question of Palestine (UNISPAL), in cooperation with relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, United Nations organs, organizations, bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations."

Programme 3. Outer space affairs

Modify the title of the programme to read: "Peaceful uses of outer space".

Programme 4. Legal affairs

At the end of paragraph 4.9, add the following:

"The negotiation, where required, of status of forces agreements between the United Nations and the host Governments in connection with the activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations will also form an important objective of this subprogramme. In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials in the conduct of their duties to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization."

Programme 6. Africa: New Agenda for Development

1. In the fourth sentence of paragraph 6.2, replace the words "is to be" with "was".

2. Subparagraph 6.6 (a):

After the words "of the New Agenda" insert the words "in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/32".

3. In subparagraph 6.8 (b):

After the words "in the New Agenda" insert the words "including those agreed upon at its mid-term review".

4. Subparagraph 6.10 (b):

After the words "on the New Agenda and", insert the words "the complementary role".

5. In paragraph 6.10, add the following subparagraph:

"(d) To promote and strengthen subregional and regional cooperation and integration through appropriate programmes, especially those identified in the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s."

Programme 7. Economic and social information and policy analysis

Paragraph 7.5:

At the end of paragraph 7.5, insert the following:

"and provide for improved coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and other relevant statistics-producing intergovernmental organizations."

Programme 8. Development support and management services

1. Replace paragraph 8.1 with the following:

'8.1 The general purpose of the programme, for which the Department for Development Support and Management Services has responsibility, is to support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to create and support a favourable climate for sustainable development. Thus, it should support, by means of technical cooperation, the activities of Member States aimed at strengthening their administrative and financial systems for development, consolidating institutional capabilities and infrastructures and implementing economic and social policies, according to their national development priorities, so as to contribute to sustainable development. To this end, the programme makes available to the developing countries and those with economies in transition, technical know-how and personnel specialized in the fields of public administration and finance, economic and social policy and planning, as well as the planning and management of natural and energy resources.'

2. In subprogramme 8.1, modify the title of the subprogramme to read:

'Public administration, finance and development'.

Programme 9. Trade and development

1. Paragraph 9.3:

(a) Replace the first sentence with the following:

'At the ninth session of UNCTAD, Governments recognized that development has evolved from a narrow focus on economic growth and capital accumulation to that of a multidimensional process, with the ultimate goal of bettering the human condition.'

(b) In the second sentence, insert the word 'growing' after the words 'To confront'.

2. Paragraph 9.5:

Replace the paragraph with the following:

'At its ninth session, UNCTAD, as part of the United Nations system and a contributor to its revitalization, has adopted far-reaching reforms, as embodied in the Midrand Declaration and 'A Partnership for Growth and Development', adopted by consensus at that session of the Conference, which encompasses its programme of work, its intergovernmental machinery and the reform of its secretariat, including its complementarity with the World Trade Organization, inter alia, by making its analysis of trade and

development available to the World Trade Organization and its cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and relevant organizations. In consequence, UNCTAD is adapting itself to new economic and institutional modalities created by the process of globalization, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and agreements, and the creation of the World Trade Organization."

3. Add a new paragraph 9.5 (bis), as follows:

"UNCTAD will continue its role as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development."

4. Add a new paragraph 9.5 (ter), as follows:

"UNCTAD will deal with the problems of the least developed countries, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, the empowerment of women and economic cooperation among developing countries in a cross-cutting manner. While concentrating on its main activities and objectives, UNCTAD will pay due attention to the outcome of the global conferences."

5. Paragraph 9.14:

Add a new subparagraph (e) as follows:

"(e) To continue the work of UNCTAD, in accordance with its mandate, in assisting the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services. In this regard, UNCTAD should take into account the work done by other international organizations in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication and coordinate related activities."

6. Paragraph 9.17, in the fourth line, after the words "developing countries" insert the words "for example land-locked and small island developing States".

7. Paragraph 9.21, after the words "Least Developed" insert the words "Land-locked and Island Developing".

8. Paragraph 9.22:

Add a new subparagraph (c) as follows:

"(c) To ensure the effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States particularly as it relates to the specific role assigned to UNCTAD in the areas of trade research and analysis."

9. Delete paragraph 9.23.

10. Replace the last sentence of paragraph 9.24 with the following:

"In accordance with the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference, in particular paragraphs 106 and 113 of 'A Partnership for Growth and Development', least developed countries will constitute a cross-cutting issue in the work of UNCTAD and the sectoral issues will be dealt with by the divisions of UNCTAD within their respective mandates."

Programme 11. Human settlements

The title of subprogramme 4 should read "Assessment, monitoring and information".

Programme 13. International drug control

In the first sentence of paragraph 13.1, delete the following words "... both of which have proliferated in the wake of the globalization of trade, travel and communications."

Programme 15. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At the end of paragraph 15.4, add:

"It will emphasize South-South cooperation, including the triangular modality of collaboration, to guide specific activities in achieving the objectives of the various subprogrammes."

2. Paragraph 15.6:

(a) In the second sentence, before the words "support from developed countries" insert the word "appropriate";

(b) In the same sentence, after the words "developed countries" insert the words "as well as from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes".

(c) In the same sentence, delete the words "that is, tripartite cooperation".

3. Paragraph 15.11:

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"The goal is to strengthen national capacities in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, focusing on the regional strategies and action programmes that have emerged from recent global conferences such as the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen and Habitat II in Istanbul."

4. Paragraph 15.11:

Add a new subparagraph (d) as follows:

"(d) To work with Governments and regional and international associations of local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and other regional or subregional groupings to develop regional human settlements plans of action, addressing priority issues specific to Asia and the Pacific region."

5. Paragraph 15.11:

Add a new subparagraph (g) as follows:

"(g) To promote opportunities that will enable developing countries to acquire environmentally friendly or sound technology to contribute to the strengthening of national capacities in achieving sustainable development."

Programme 19. Human rights

1. Paragraph 19.1:

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"The programme is based on the principles and recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action."

2. Paragraph 19.2:

(a) After the words "Commissioner for Human Rights", insert the words "who performs his functions under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 48/141" and replace the words "to provide leadership" by the words "providing the leading role";

(b) Approves the proposal contained in subparagraph 199 (d) of the CPC report, with the following amendment:

Before the words "serious violations", elete the word "potential".

3. Paragraph 19.3:

(a) Approves the proposals in subparagraphs 199 (e) and (f) of the CPC report;

(b) Replace subparagraph (h) with the following:

"The adoption of more efficient methods within the United Nations to promote and protect human rights, including by preventing human rights violations throughout the world and removing obstacles to the full realization of human rights."

(c) Delete subparagraph (j) in its entirety;

(d) In subparagraph (m), replace "participation" with "contribution" and add "according to the legislative mandates in effect regarding these issues."

4. Delete paragraph 19.4.

5. Paragraph 19.5:

(a) Approves the proposals contained in subparagraph 199 (h) of the CPC report, with the following amendment:

After the words "the Right to Development" insert the words "and subsequent mandates" and delete the word "the" before the words "fundamental human rights".

(b) Amend the first two sentences of paragraph 19.5 as follows:

"The primary objectives of this subprogram will include promotion and protection of the right to development. In this regard, the objectives will be ... (to end of sentence)."

6. Delete the first sentence of paragraph 19.7.

7. Delete the first sentence of paragraph 19.8.

Programme 23. Public information

1. Insert a new paragraph 23.6 (bis), as follows:

"Some long-standing world problems persist and an informed understanding among the peoples of the world is still needed and remains one of the objectives of the Department. This is especially true in the areas of peace, security and disarmament; the question of Palestine; self-determination and decolonization; human rights, including racial discrimination; and development."

2. In paragraph 23.7, replace the word "major" by the word "first".

[Programme 24. Administrative services

In subparagraph 231 (h) of the CPC report, add the words "under regulations established by the General Assembly" at the end of the text recommended by CPC.]